

are old enough to die for this country, you are old enough to vote." I would just say this, and I am not going to take that particular line of reasoning, but if you are old enough to accept the responsibility of military obligation and to discharge this responsibility in an honorable way as so many have at this age, I think that this is an indication of a willingness to accept responsibilities of other kinds.

THE CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: I allot two minutes to Delegate Gilchrist.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Ladies and gentlemen, one of the most interesting experiences which I had as a candidate for the Constitutional Convention was that of attending a meeting in the town of Frostburg in Allegany County.

I was invited to a meeting which was sponsored by the Women's Democratic Club of Frostburg, which took place in the Knights of Columbus Hall in Frostburg.

I explained that I felt a bit out of place, being present in the Knights of Columbus Hall, a Republican in a Democratic Club, and a man in a woman's organization. *(Laughter.)*

I found that one of the significant factors in that group was the presence of a very considerable number of young people from Frostburg State College. All of us who appeared at that meeting were called on to say something or another.

And when I got up I was subjected to a barrage of questions about the possibility of lowering the voting age. One of the other candidates, surprisingly perhaps, was the head of the political science department at Frostburg State College. She had obviously trained her students well. They knew something about what was to take place here in Annapolis, and they were prepared with questions.

I got a big kick out of answering or parrying the questions which were thrown to me by those young people really more than I did from the adults in the audience.

But one of the things out of which I got the most enjoyment and information was the fact that when we were finished, I was told that that day the students of

Frostburg State College had taken a poll among themselves with respect to that which we were about to do in Annapolis some months later, and that they had voted two to one in favor of retaining the voting age at 21.

And some of those youngsters at Frostburg explained to me why they did this. They explained to me that they did not feel that they were old enough to assume some of the other responsibilities which were concomitant with the right to vote.

They did not believe that they really ought to be able to buy their own cars, to contract their own debts, to accept the responsibilities of willing those assets which they had. The boys among them did not believe that they really ought to be able to marry without their parents' consent.

When I found that out, on the basis of a two-to-one vote among the people who are represented in this group by a delegate who was the president of the senior class the preceding year and who is a member of this Committee which reports to you today, I could only reach the conclusion that perhaps they were smarter than I was in some respects, that they knew wherein lay their responsibilities, that they knew that which they felt they were entitled to tackle themselves.

They saw no reason to change the constitutional provision which we have historically had, nor do I.

I respectfully suggest that the amendment which has been offered by the majority in this thing is the attitude which ought to be adopted in this Convention.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman, I yield three minutes to Delegate Pascal.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Pascal.

DELEGATE PASCAL: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, as Mrs. Cardin has indicated, this was an emotional issue in Committee and will probably evolve into one here on the floor.

We were all talking the same language, but it had different meaning. Let us take the impact that nineteen- and twenty-year-olds would have on the political scene. My figures show they would increase the electorate by six percent and would represent about 150,000 votes. Some of the surveys taken by some local T.V. stations showed that of 3,000 people polled, fifty-eight per-